

Claims

1. A method of editing and printing a photo album, the method comprising

- storing low quality and high quality digital representations of photographs in a server system;

5 - sending the low quality digital representations to a client computer remote from the server system in association with respective identifiers of the photographs;

- editing an electronic representation of pages of the photo album at the client computer, using an interactive display with the low quality digital

10 representations of interactively selected photographs;

- sending an editing result of said editing from the client computer to the server system, including identifiers of the selected photographs;

- retrieving, in the server system, the stored high quality digital representation of the selected photographs identified by the identifiers in the editing result;

15 - printing the pages of the photo album in the server system using the retrieved high quality digital representations.

2. A method of editing and printing according to Claim 1, wherein said editing comprises

- receiving selection commands for selection positions where the

20 selected photographs must be printed on a page of the photoalbum;

- sending information indicative of the selected positions from the client computer to the server system;

- said printing including positioning the selected photographs according to said information.

25 3. A method of editing and printing according to Claim 2, comprising

- providing a plurality of available album page templates, each of the templates defining a plurality of locations for photographs at predefined positions for a page of the photo album;

- receiving a selection of a particular template from the user;

5 - receiving commands from the user to select the positions of the selected photographs by associating the selected photographs with respective ones of positions from the particular template.

4. A method of editing and printing according to Claim 3, wherein the information indicative of the selected positions includes an identification of the 10 particular template, the server system storing information about the available templates and retrieving the position information for printing from the stored information.

5. A method of editing and printing according to Claim 4, comprising

- receiving a user selection of a transformation to be applied to a photograph;

15 - display a transformation result of the low quality version at said client computer;

- transmitting information indicative of the selected transformation to the server system;

- adapting the high quality version according to the selected transformation

20 before printing.

6. A method of editing and printing according to Claim 5, wherein the client computer provides for selection of the transformation from at least one of selection of a window in a photograph for selectively placing only the part of the photograph that is in the window in the photo album, rotation, geometric 25 distortion, adaptation of brightness, adaptation of contrast, adaptation of color saturation and adaptation of gamma.

7. A method of editing and printing according to Claim 1, comprising

- receiving text data in combination with a position specification at the client computer;

30 - sending the text data to the server computer;

- printing text controlled by the text data on a page of the photo album at a position controlled by the position specification.

8. A photo album printing system, comprising

- communication network;

5 - a client computer coupled to the communication network and arranged to enable a user to interactively edit an electronic representation of pages of a photo album, the pages containing interactively selected photographs, each associated with a respective identifier;

- a server system coupled to the network, the server system comprising a photo

10 printer and electronic storage space wherein digital representations of low quality and high quality versions of photographs are stored, the server system being arranged to transmit the low quality versions to the client computer in association with the respective identifiers, for display during editing, the client computer being arranged to transmit a electronic edit result representing the

15 pages of the photo album to the server system, including the identifiers of the selected photographs in the resulting electronic representation, the server system being arranged to retrieve the high quality versions of the photographs from the storage space using the identifiers included with the edit result and to print the pages with the photo printer under control of the retrieved high

20 quality versions of the photographs.

9. A photo album printing system according to Claim 8, wherein the client computer is arranged to provide for user selection of a photo album page template from at least a plurality of page templates, each of the templates defining a plurality of locations for photographs at predefined positions, the client computer enabling the user to select a particular template from the templates, and to assign selected photographs to respective ones of the locations in the particular template, the client computer transmitting information identifying the selected template or the positions in the template to the server computer for use in printing.

10. A photo album printing system, wherein the client computer is arranged to provide for user selection of a transformation to be applied to a photograph, to display a transformation result of the low quality version and to transmit information indicative of the selected transformation to the server system, the server system being arranged to apply the transformation to the high quality version before printing.

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11. A client computer programmed for editing a photo album, the client computer comprising a user command input device, a processor, a display screen and a connection for connecting to a server system, the client computer being arranged to

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- receive low quality digital representations of photographs from a remote server system in association with respective identifiers of the photographs;
- receive editing commands from the user command input device, to select selected photographs for display on pages of a photo album;

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- display the edited pages;
- send an editing result of said editing from the client computer to the server system, including identifiers of the selected photographs;

12. A client computer according to Claim 11, arranged to

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- provide a plurality of available album page templates, each of the templates defining a plurality of locations for photographs at predefined positions for a page of the photo album;
- receive a selection of a particular template from the user;
- receive commands from the user to select the positions of the selected photographs by associating the selected photographs with respective 25 ones of positions from the particular template.

13. A client computer according to Claim 12, wherein the client computer is arranged to send an identification of the particular template to a server system for use in printing.

14. A client computer according to Claim 11, arranged to

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- receive a user selection of a transformation to be applied to a photograph;

- display a transformation result of the low quality version at said client computer;
- transmit information indicative of the selected transformation to the server system.

5 15. A server system for printing photo albums, the server system comprising a connection for connecting to one or more remote client computers, a processor, a storage apparatus storing low and high quality representations of respective photographs, wherein the server system is arranged to

- send the low quality digital representations to a client computer remote from

10 the server system in association with respective identifiers of the photographs;

- receive an editing result representing pages of a photoalbum, including identifiers of selected ones of the photographs;
- retrieve the stored high quality digital representation of the selected photographs identified by the identifiers in the editing result;

15 - print the pages of the photo album in the server system using the retrieved high quality digital representations.

16. A server system according to Claim 15, arranged to

- receive information indicative of the selected positions on the pages of the photo album from the client computer;

20 - print the pages with the selected photographs positioned according to said information.

17. A server system according to Claim 16, which stores a plurality of page templates with each position information of a plurality of photo positions on a page, the server system being arranged to

- receiving information indicative of a selected template from the client computer;
- retrieve the position information from the selected template;
- print the selected photographs at positions controlled by the retrieved position information from the selected template.

25 30 18. A server system according to Claim 15, arranged to

- receive information indicative of a selected transformation from the client computer;
- adapt or select the high quality version according to the selected transformation before printing.

5 19. A computer program product comprising instructions for programming a PC to operate as a client computer as set forth in Claim 11.

20. A computer program product comprising instructions for programming a computer to operate as a server computer as set forth in Claim 15.